

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 14 Apr 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION	25X1X
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1. Since 1930, the government, seated in Kabul, has been a constitutional hereditary monarchy. The Senate (Majlis Shurae-i-Ahyan) may consist of a maximum of 40 members appointed by the king for life. The rarely convoked National Grand Assembly (Majlis Shurae Milli) comprises members who are elected for three years by the people. (The present Senate consists of 24 members while there are 122 considered members of the lower house. Standing committees of the lower house examine the affairs of the various Ministries and Departments.) Islamic law, in the absence of specific legislation, is interpreted and applied by the courts.
2. For administrative purposes the state is divided into great provinces called Walijats with Naib-ul-Hukmas at the head, and into smaller provincial districts called Hukumate Allahs which are governed by chief commissioners called Hakim A'laas. The great provinces are sub-divided into districts at the head of which are found administrators responsible to the Naib-ul-Hukmas. Names of the provinces are usually taken from principal towns in each region. (The great provinces are: Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Katghan, Mushraqi and Junobi. The smaller districts include Maimana, a commercial center for that most important branch of economy, the breeding of karakul sheep and the manufacture of carpets; Farah, a truck stop half-way between Kandahar and Herat; Badakshan, an area allegedly rich in mineral treasures including rubies, lapis-lazuli and gold.) In addition to the Naib-ul-Hukma, the provincial cabinet may include a Financial Commissioner, Police Commander, Educational Officer and Judge, as well as Directors of Traffic, Foreign Affairs, Statistics, Health, Communications, Revenues, Publications, Mines, Forests, Public Works and Tribal Affairs. In the Herat Province, provision is made for a "Director, Scrutiny of Statistics", and for a "Chief, Trade Dispute Settlement Office" while in the Badakshan Hukumate Allah there is a "Director, Statistical Intelligence". These offices are not always sub-ordinated to the next higher administrative unit and the highest ranking official may be required to assume responsibility for the lowest function within the provincial administration.
3. Cities with more than ten thousand residents have City councillors (Baladiyah) and mayors (Beis). The capital city, Kabul, occupies an area of about five square miles and is the largest city in the kingdom. Kandahar is Afghanistan's second city. Most of the seven hundred foreigners reside in Kabul. It has been stated that "less than 10% of the total population (estimated at from 7 to 12 million people) reside in urban centers of 10,000 or more inhabitants. Towns over 10,000 population are: Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Faizabad, Tashkughan, Balkh,

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Gardez, Ghazni, Jalalabad, Shiberghan, Khanabad, Mushraqi, Junobi, Badakshan,  
Pul-i-Khumri, Andkhai and Charikar.

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